


REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended for clarification and to correct typographical errors in the originally filed claims. New claims 9-21 have been added and it is respectfully submitted that these additional claims do not introduce new subject matter, are fully supported by the application and are patentable over the prior art. Prompt and favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly sought.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application, namely claims 1-21, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner desire a telephonic interview to resolve any outstanding matters, he is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned at (631) 501-5713.

Respectfully submitted,

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Tel.: (631) 501-5713
Fax: (631) 501-3526


Dana A. Brussel
Reg. No. 45,717
Attorney for Applicants

Send correspondence to:
Chief Patent Counsel
Tyco Healthcare Group
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856